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THE POSTAL INSPECTION SERVICE

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PROTECTING THE U.S. MAILS

The protection of the U.S. Mail and the mail system is the responsibility of the Postal Inspection Service. As the law enforcement and audit arm of the U.S. Postal Service, the Inspection Service is a highly specialized, professional organization performing investigative, law enforcement, security and audit functions essential to a stable and sound postal system.

As our country's oldest federal law enforcement agency, the Inspection Service has jurisdiction in all criminal matters infringing on the integrity and security of the mail, and the safety of all postal valuables, property and personnel.

Since the beginning of a postal system in this country, criminal and administrative problems of the Postal Service have been interwoven. By detecting and investigating crimes against the mail and postal revenue, establishing safe and efficient postal systems, protecting all postal properties, assuring that the postal system is not criminally misused to the detriment of the public, the Inspection Service plays an integral part in maintaining effective operations in the Postal Service.

The agency's activities make a vital contribution to the protection of the nation's economy. Security and enforcement functions of the Inspection Service provide assurance to American business for the safe exchange of funds and securities through the U.S. Mail, and to postal customers of the sanctity of the seal in transmitting correspondence and messages to all parts of the world. Audits ensure stability to financial operations, help control costs, and promote increased efficiency in our Postal Service.

POSTAL INSPECTORS

Postal Inspectors are the fact finding and investigative agents of the U.S. Postal Service. Today nearly two-thirds of their time is spent

in investigating and solving postal related crimes. Possessing statutory power of arrest, they apprehend violators of the law and work closely with U.S. Attorneys in prosecuting cases in court. Their work also includes crime prevention, the audit of postal operations, investigation of accidents and a wide variety of other service and audit matters.

The work of a Postal Inspector requires total dedication and a willingness to work long hours. Investigations of postal crimes, which often entail interstate or international coordination, and the responsibility to restore mail service following catastrophes such as floods, fire and train and airplane wrecks, are time-consuming and can be hazardous.

There are approximately 1,900 Postal Inspectors stationed in the United States and Puerto Rico. All trainees undergo an eleven-week basic training course involving use of firearms, defensive tactics, legal matters, search and seizure, arrest techniques, court procedures, postal operations, audit functions, and a detailed study of the federal laws in which the Inspection Service has jurisdiction. Classes are conducted at the Inspection Service training center in Potomac, Maryland.

Refresher courses keep Inspectors informed of current court decisions, laws, and legal procedures. Additional specialized courses are continually held to equip the Service with expertly trained personnel.

All applicants for the position of Postal Inspector must successfully complete the following steps: entry examination; a comprehensive background investigation including a medical examination; the candidate assessment center review; and all phases of the basic training course.

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INSPECTION SERVICE ACTIVITY

Criminal investigations and postal crime prevention represent the greatest portion of Inspection Service activity.

Postal Inspectors investigate violations of all postal laws and other related criminal violations. Crimes within the purview of postal investigations include mail fraud, the illegal transmission of controlled substances through the U.S. Mail, the mailing of child pornography, thefts of mail or postal valuables, assaults on postal employees, bombs sent through the mails or directed against postal properties, and the mailing of matter containing poison, unauthorized concealable firearms and harmful or prohibited articles.

Five crime laboratories located throughout the country assist Inspectors in analyzing evidentiary material needed for identifying and tracing criminal suspects and in providing expert testimony for cases brought to trial.

The objectives of postal crime prevention are to anticipate, identify and analyze those areas of greatest crime risk potentially affecting employees, funds, property and postal customers. Postal Inspectors then take action to remove or reduce that risk and maintain the integrity of the Postal Service.

The Postal Inspection Service is responsible for the internal audit of the Postal Service.

Postal Inspectors provide management with independent audits and investigations of all postal activities as a part of the Postal Service's internal control system.

Audits of installations and systems protect the assets of the Service, improve its financial management system, assist in the resolution of customer complaints, investigate matters of Congressional interest and identify specific improvements for better customer service and more economical operations.

Financial audits provide an independent check on the adequacy and effectiveness of control systems; verify the existence of assets and ensure the proper safeguards are maintained. Operations audits are conducted to assist postal management in the operation of an efficient, economical, and reliable Postal Service.

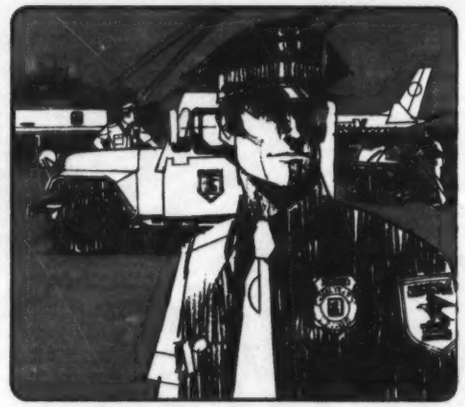
SECURITY FORCE

Postal Police Officers provide protection to mail, postal valuables, postal employees, facilities and vehicles of the Postal Service. As part of the law enforcement team, they assist Postal Inspectors in the enforcement of certain postal laws and regulations on postal premises and provide mobile response units in emergency situations involving the Postal Service.

Equipped with portable radios and alerted by closed circuit television they provide perimeter security to major postal facilities and other buildings operated by the Postal Service. Their presence in postal installations throughout the country is a deterrent to postal crimes and an aid to employee morale.

Postal Police Officers also are used to escort high value mail while in transit between postal units and at airports.

Experience in military or civil law enforcement, industrial security, or similar occupations is an asset for positions in the Security Force. All appointees undergo a four-week training course conducted at the Inspection Service's training center.

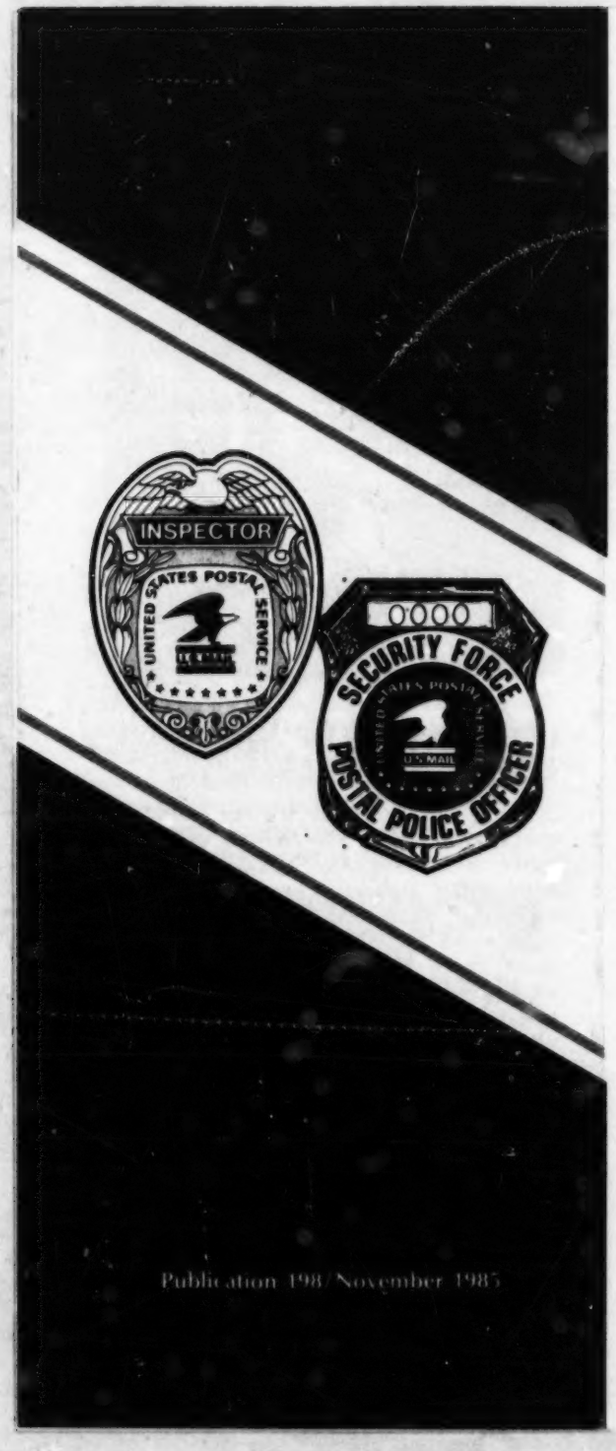


COORDINATION WITH OTHER AGENCIES

The Inspection Service extends full cooperation to all local and federal investigative and prosecutive authorities in law enforcement matters to ensure greater protection to the public. Postal Inspectors participate in the Department of Justice national strike force teams aimed at curtailing widespread criminal acts of an organized nature. Postal Inspectors also work closely with the External Auditors in providing support to the certification of the Postal Service's financial statements.

CONVICTION RATE

The Inspection Service maintains a consistently high conviction rate each year of approximately 98% of cases brought to trial, a rate not exceeded by any other federal law enforcement agency.



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JURISDICTION, POSTAL LAWS AND PROTECTION

The Inspection Service exercises investigative jurisdiction over approximately 85 postal-related statutes. These can be grouped in two categories: criminal acts against the mails, postal facilities, or postal personnel; and criminal misuse of the postal system.

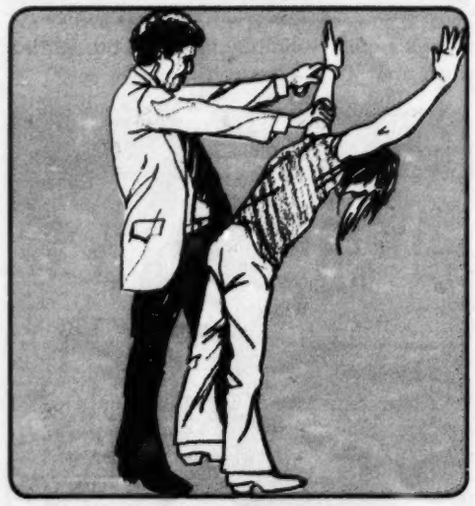
MAIL FRAUD

All criminal activity involving use of the U.S. Mail with intent to defraud comes under the jurisdiction of the Postal Inspection Service. The Mail Fraud Law is the oldest consumer protection law in the United States and is one of the most effective prosecutive tools in fighting white collar and organized crime. Millions of dollars are lost each year through mail fraud which cheats not only the poor and the elderly, but businessmen and the consumer as well. Prevalent schemes include insurance, banking, false billings; land and advance-fee selling swindles; franchise schemes; work-at-home and fraudulent diploma schemes; charity schemes; promotions of fake health cures, beauty devices, fast-working diets and sex stimulants; chain letters, lotteries, and solicitations for the sale of advertising specialty items.

While Postal Inspectors have no statutory authority to act as intermediaries in the settlement of unsatisfactory financial or property transactions conducted through the mails, their investigations frequently result in the discontinuance of fraudulent or borderline operations. Administrative mail-stop orders may be issued to prevent continuing public loss while sufficient evidence is being developed for criminal prosecutive action in the courts, or in cases where false representations, but not necessarily fraudulent intent, can be proven. The Inspection Service has a leading role in consumer protection through the implementation of educational programs designed to prevent mail fraud schemes from developing, and through its efforts to resolve complaints relating to consumer/vendor misunderstandings or poor business practices.

ORGANIZED CRIME

Investigations by Postal Inspectors in organized crime matters most frequently relate to cases involving theft and fencing of large amounts of stamp stock and securities by organized post office burglary rings; insurance and investment frauds; and planned bankruptcies and schemes aimed at looting company assets. The Organized Crime Control Act of 1970 specifically includes violation of the Mail Fraud Statute as "racketeering activity." Postal Inspectors are assigned to the Justice Department Organized Crime Strike Forces which operate at various points throughout the country.



MAIL THEFT/BURGLARY/ROBBERY

Investigation of mail theft offenses are a large part of the Inspection Service's responsibilities and most commonly involve stolen checks, food coupons or other negotiable

securities. Primary attention is directed at major gangs, sophisticated fencing operations, large scale thefts and the implementation of preventive programs.

Burglaries of post offices range from vandalism to high level burglary rings and fencing operations involving organized crime activity.

Armed robberies endanger the lives of postal employees and the public and, therefore, are priority investigations. The targets of these crimes usually are postal facilities, vehicles transporting mail, and individual employees, primarily letter carriers.

DRUGS

Illegal trafficking in drugs, narcotics and other controlled substances through the mail is investigated in conjunction with other federal and state law enforcement agencies.

PORNOGRAPHY

The Inspection Service investigates violations of the Postal Obscenity Statute enacted in 1865 which prohibits the sending of obscene materials through the U.S. Mail. This includes the investigation of child pornography offenses involving the sexual abuse or exploitation of children based on laws passed in 1977 and 1984.

BOMBS

Investigations of incidents or threats involving bombs and incendiary devices sent through the mails or directed at postal properties or functions are within the jurisdiction of the Inspection Service.

EXTORTION

The Inspection Service has investigative responsibility in incidents involving use of the mails to extort money or property by threat of injury to person's reputation or by accusing a person of a crime.

OTHER PROHIBITED MAILINGS

The mailing of poisons or other harmful matter prohibited by law is investigated by Postal Inspectors.

ASSISTANCE FROM THE PUBLIC

In most cases, the Inspection Service must rely on the watchfulness and alertness of mail recipients to inform them of possible criminal or harmful activity involving the use of the mails. Any suspected violations of postal laws or misuse of the mails should be reported to the local Postmaster for referral to a Postal Inspector. Prompt action on the part of postal customers and Postal Inspectors is essential in the interest of crime prevention and detection.